



Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY ADMINISTRATION (DDA) EMPLOYMENT FIRST NEWSLETTER

September 2019 Monthly News and Updates

Reminder: October Employment Data Collection

What: All DDA Meaningful Day providers are required to submit data, twice annually, for all people they support who receive Day Habilitation, Employment Discovery and Customization, Career Exploration, Community Development Services or Supported Employment. Providers of Meaningful Day Services are to document various employment and community outcomes via DDA's web-based, Employment Outcome Information System for a two-week period within the month of October 2019.

When: Providers will choose any concurrent 2 week period in the month of October during which they will track the designated outcomes. **Providers will have until December 6, 2019 to submit their data into the system.**

Why: The DDA, in partnership with the SELN, created a robust data collection system to inform stakeholders and leaders of progress toward employment goals, and opportunities to improve system's performance. This data assists DDA in making policy and budgetary decisions.

The Data system is designed to help DDA and its community of stakeholders to develop the supports and infrastructure necessary to fulfill the vision and goals of Maryland's Position Statement on Employment Services, and to provide longitudinal data that support Maryland's goals to improve both participation in integrated employment and the quality of employment outcomes.

More information:

If you need a refresher related to the data collection expectations see the resources and instructions below:

[Original webinar outlining purpose and scope of data initiative](#)

[Webinar on how to use the data system](#)

[Webinar on system updates in 2018](#)

[Maryland DDA Employment Outcome Information System Instructions](#)

[Maryland DDA Employment Outcome Information System FAQ](#)

Homepage of the Maryland DDA Employment Data Initiative: <https://www.statedata.info/mdda/>

If you have questions about the data collection feel free to contact Staci.Jones@maryland.gov

Looking for Stories to Highlight

There is power in sharing stories; this is especially true when talking about the many facets of the Employment First transformation.

The DDA would like to highlight stories related to **employment outcomes, community participation and exploration, relationship building or stories about your organization's transformation efforts.**

If you have a story to share, please send information to
Staci.Jones@Maryland.gov.



DDA will highlight these stories in this Employment Newsletter, on the [DDA Success Stories page](#) and on Social Media.

The Governor's Interagency Transition Council for Youth with Disabilities Request for Sponsorship Proposals

About the Interagency Transition Council for Youth with Disabilities (IATC) Request for Sponsorship Proposal (RSP)

The IATC is a partnership of State and local government agencies, educators, family members and advocates.

The IATC's purpose is to help improve the policies and practices that affect Maryland's transitioning youth with disabilities preparing to transition from high school to adult services, college, employment and independent living. "Transitioning youth" are youth with disabilities ages 14 through 21.

The IATC wishes to sponsor Local Education Agency (LEA) in their efforts to educate students and families about secondary transition and post-high school options. The IATC will be giving sponsorships of up to \$1,000 to support local events designed to include high school students with disabilities and their families.

[Click here for more complete information about this sponsorship opportunity.](#)

Change Forum: Sheltered Workshop Conversion To Community Employment

Vermont APSE is organizing a two-day National Organizational Change Forum: Sheltered Workshop Conversion to Community Employment, on October 21-22, 2019 in Burlington, Vermont.

The event focuses on employment for individuals with disabilities. Hear from leaders who have aligned federal, state, and local systems and agencies to move from sheltered work to offer exceptional community-based employment supports."

The forum is designed to be interactive and action oriented. Participate in lively discussions and planning related to policy and systems change, leadership,

management, transition, career development, and integrated employment.

Forum planners encourage state teams to attend, including state Vocational Rehabilitation, Developmental Disabilities agency representatives, Behavioral Health Centers, local community providers, One Stop career center staff, local education agency staff, university faculty, self-advocates, and interested others.



Register or read about the institute here: http://vermontapse.org/vermont_conversion_institute

Administration for Community Living Releases New Issue Brief on Assistive Technology

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) has released a new Issue Brief on Assistive Technology. This issue brief discusses: 1) the important role of assistive technology in helping people of all ages with disabilities to live full and independent lives in their communities; and 2) the sources of public funding that are available for technology, including Medicare, Medicaid, and programs that the ACL manages.

According to the brief "Assistive technology (AT) includes software, devices, equipment and products that improve the functioning of individuals of all ages with disabilities. Assistive technology can affect a person's well-being by improving their ability to walk, eat, bathe, communicate, see, speak and live independently. Technologies also can help address social isolation and improve quality of life by assisting people with communication, mobility, and other daily activities."

[Read the brief here.](#)



DDA Educational Series Webinar Recordings

As a reminder, the DDA educational webinar series are available to view by going to the [DDA archived webinar page](#). You will find a complete list on the right side of the page. Below is a list of webinars in the series.

[Eligibility](#)

[Person Centered Planning](#)

[Person Centered Plan Authorization](#)

[DDA Waiver Programs](#)

[Self-Directed Service Delivery Model](#)

[Employment and Meaningful Day](#)

[Behavior Services](#)

[Community of Practice; Charting the LifeCourse Framework](#)

[How to Report Abuse and Neglect](#)

[Role of the Coordinator of Community Services \(CCS\)](#)

[Understanding Appeals and Reconsideration](#)

[Using SIS-A in Person Centered Planning](#)



Want more information about Employment First?

- Go to the DDA's [Employment First Page](#)
 - Sign up for the [Employment First mailing list](#)
 - View previous [Employment First webinars](#)
 - Contact Staci Jones by email at staci.jones@maryland.gov
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